How to Make a Word Web

0:00  **Owl:** Welcome to How to Make a Word Web, an instructional video on reading comprehension brought to you by the Excelsior College Online Writing Lab.

0:10  One way to improve your vocabulary is to create a Word Web for each new word you encounter.

0:16  With a word web, you can gain a deeper understanding of new words, practice using them, and keep track of them in your notes.

0:23  To create a word web, take a sheet of paper and draw a circle in the middle.

0:29  Then, draw six more circles around the central circle.

0:33  Draw arrows pointing from the central circle to the outer circles.

0:38  Each circle will contain a different piece of information about the new word.

0:43  The **Target Word** will go in the central circle.

0:45  The circles surrounding the new word will contain the following pieces of information: definition, synonyms, part of speech, word parts and meanings, sample sentence, and additional meanings.

1:02  Let’s practice using a word web by filling in the word “accelerate.”

1:07  Now enter the definition of the word.

1:09  Since most words have more than one meaning, enter the definition that is most relevant to the way you are using the word.

1:16  In this case, write: “to move more quickly.”

1:20  Next, write down the part of the speech for this meaning of the word.

1:24  In this case, write “verb.”

1:27  After that, write down some synonyms for the word.

1:31  Synonyms are words that mean the same as the target word.

1:35  You may want to refer to a thesaurus for help with locating synonyms.

1:39  For this word, let’s write “speed up, go faster, gain momentum.”

1:46  Now, write down the word parts that make up the target word.

1:50  This will help you better understand its meaning.

1:54  If you don’t know the word parts, look it up online.

1:57  In this case, the word “accelerate” has the following word parts:

2:02  The prefix is “ac,” which means “toward.”

2:07  The root is “celer,” which means “move faster.”

2:12  The suffix is “ate,” which means “having the quality of.”

2:17  Next, write a sentence using the word, which will help you practice how to use it.

2:22  In this case, write down:

2:25  He accelerated when he saw the danger approaching.

2:29  Finally, make a note of any additional meanings of the word in the last circle.
Include the part of speech for each additional meaning since some words can have more than one part of speech.

For this word, write down:

- (verb) to cause something to happen sooner

That’s it!

Keep track of your word webs in a notebook so that you can refer to them any time you need to check a word’s meaning.

Click here for a Word Web template that you can download and take with you.

Thanks for listening to this instructional video on How to Make a Word Web!

Visit the Excelsior College Online Writing Lab for more support with reading and writing skills.